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Assembly California Legislature



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April 24, 2008

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Countywide Planning & Development
Attn: Robert M. Calix, Transportation Program Manager
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop: 99-23-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Re: Comments on Metro Draft 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan

Dear Mr. Snoble, Metro Board Chairwoman O'Connor and Board Members,

I want to first thank Metro's leadership and staff for their hard work in developing the Draft 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). All of the projects in the LRTP are important. However, I am writing today to voice my strong support for several projects which are of special importance to my constituents.

As you know, in this year's legislative session fully one-third of the bills that I have introduced on the floor of the Assembly are transportation-related. I have focused on transportation issues because they are among the most intransigent problems facing the Los Angeles region. In particular, the movement of our growing population and the goods we need increasingly creates untenable congestion and adverse environmental and health impacts. The projects set forth in Metro's Draft 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan will expand our transit options, which are key to the quality of life of the region's residents, and will help our economy to thrive over the next 30 years.

Westside

Studies have shown that the Westside is home to some of the worst traffic congestion in the nation. As job centers and housing have matured over the last twenty years in mid-Wilshire, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Century City and Westwood, traffic has followed on both streets and freeways creating gridlock during peak hours of travel. Peak periods are getting longer. Furthermore, the Westside is served by buses and no other public transit options. I support the following Westside projects:

1. Continue the funding commitment for Expo Line Phases 1 and 2. Ridership on the completed line to Santa Monica is projected at 62,000 boardings per day, second only to projections for Metro's proposed Westside Extension (see 2 below). Expo Line will relieve congestion on the I-10 Freeway, providing commuters and tourists heading to job centers and attractions on the Westside with greater flexibility to reach their destinations.
2. Move Metro Subway Westside Extension to La Cienega and the City of Santa Monica from Tier 1 of the Strategic Unfunded portion of the LRTP to the Constrained (funded) portion of the Plan on a priority basis when funding is identified. This project, currently in the Alternatives Analysis phase of the environmental process,

would serve to reduce congestion in the high density job and housing centers of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Century City, Westwood and Santa Monica. Ridership for at least one of the Alternatives is projected at 73,000 boardings a day.

3. Include the I-10/Robertson/National Blvd. Circulation Improvement Project in the Strategic Plan. This area, which is now a bottleneck during peak hours, will also include an Expo Line transit station when Phase 1 is completed in 2010. Reconfiguring the interchange and streets is imperative to improve circulation patterns and accommodate increasing traffic.

Valley

The Valley experiences gridlock on its freeways during peak hours, and increasing congestion on city residential and commercial streets. I support the following Valley projects:

1. Maintain the funding commitment to expansion of the Orange Line. This project has exceeded all projections for ridership and expansion will meet continued demand. It demonstrates what innovative thinking can accomplish in the transit arena.
2. Improve the 101/134 Corridor and add a connector between the 170 and 134 freeways. The heavily-traveled 101/134 corridor needs improvements to ease the crush of traffic during peak periods. Adding a connector between the 170 and 134 would greatly facilitate the flow of traffic in the eastern section of the Valley.
3. Maintain the funding commitment to Regional Surface Transportation Improvements and Transportation Management. Programs such as signal synchronization and Intelligent Transportation Systems are important components of more efficient traffic flow.
4. Maintain and expand funding for soundwalls. This program should be expedited to give residents sound protection in identified locations.

Our region is expected to grow by an additional 3 million people – that's a city the size of Chicago - over the next 25 years. The projects listed above will benefit our entire region by providing environmentally sound transit options, reducing congestion, improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their adverse health impacts. I appreciate your consideration of the projects detailed above.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Mike Feuer
42nd District

cc: Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel